

NatGLC - Recordkeeping Course

Unit 1: What Can You Do with Records You Keep (15 minutes)

- Big Picture Overview Scenario Illustrating Focus of Course – example of focus and process
- General goals that can be achieved with record keeping
 - Manage Grazing & Production
 - Meet Land Stewardship Conservation Objectives
 - Increase Operational Efficiencies & Revenue
 - Engage in Adaptive Management and Increase Decision-Making Confidence

Unit 2: What Records to Keep & Why (30 minutes)

- Land
 - Climate
 - Infrastructure
 - Water (livestock, irrigation)
 - Land health (biotic integrity, soil stability, hydrologic function)
 - Wildlife & habitat (optional)
- Forage/Vegetation
 - Species (composition & distribution/density)
 - Invasive species
 - Production
 - Grazing rotations
 - Inputs & Improvements (fertilizers, herbicides, seeding)
- Animal & Financial
 - Brief mention of the basic's animal production & financial
 - Animal foraging patterns and land use patterns

Unit 3: How to Collect the Data (1.5 hours)

- Data Prep & Planning
 - When & where to collect data.
 - Data collection integrity (protocol)
 - Tools & forms/apps
- Land
 - Photo points (where and how to take them)
 - Describing Indicators of Rangeland Health (not formal IIRH)
 - Riparian Areas – Proper Functioning Condition (lentic and lotic overviews)
 - Wildlife & habitat (population estimations, habitat assessments, use patterns)
 - Water: precipitation & climate; livestock troughs (fillings); irrigation timing, frequency & GPM (will include basic irrigation calculations)
- Forage & Vegetation
 - LPI (composition)
 - Basal Gap (soil stability & invasive niches)
 - Production (lbs/acre)
 - Density (vegetation patterns)
 - Belt transects (invasive or specific species monitoring)

Unit 4: How to Record & Store & Analyze Data (3 hours)

- Data Entry (back at desk)
 - short ditty about Garbage In/Garbage Out
 - where to put the data: excel, apps, software
- Mapping the data
 - Hand maps
 - GIS/App maps
- Analyzing the data: Land (for each method above, show how to calculate and interpret data)
 - Photo points
 - Describing Indicators of Rangeland Health
 - Riparian Areas – Proper Functioning Condition
 - Wildlife & habitat
 - Water
- Analyzing the data: Forage/Vegetation (for each method above, show how to calculate and interpret data)
 - LPI (composition)
 - Basal Gap (soil stability & invasive niches)
 - Production (lbs/acre)
 - Density (vegetation patterns)
 - Belt transects (invasive or specific species monitoring)

Module 5: Pulling it Together: Real Life Scenarios: What to do with the Data & How to Integrate It (2 hours)

- Walk Through Record Keeping Scenario
 - Data collection planning
 - Collecting the data
 - Interpreting the data
 - Setting Goals & Objectives (touch on NRCS 9-step planning process)
 - Analyzing Data in relation to goals & objectives
 - Managing based on data (connect Recording Keeping and Grazing 101)
 - Adaptive Management based on continued monitoring
- Geographic and Situation Diverse Scenario Examples (TBD)

Module 6: Design or Modify Your Record Keeping & Analysis (2-8 hours)

- Excel Tips & Tricks
- Overview of Software Options